

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCNSUL GENOA
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AMCONSUL NAPLES
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI HOLDS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

SUMMARY. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) HAS CONCLUDED AN UNEXCEPTIONAL THREE-DAY SESSION OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC). PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER DELIVERED THE OPENING SPEECH WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY DEFENSE IN TONE AND WHICH REITERATED THE VALIDITY OF THE STRATEGY OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE ADOPTED AT THE LAST PARTY CONGRESS. DISCUSSION AT THE CC SESSION REVEALED NO CRITICISM OF THE LEADERSHIP ALTHOUGH IT DID NOTE DISCONTENT AMONG THE PARTY BASE. PRIOR TO CONCLUDING, THE CC APPROVED BERLINGUER'S SPEECH AND IT VOTED TO ESTABLISH TWO COMMISSIONS CHARGED WITH PREPARING FOR THE PARTY'S FIFTEENTH CONGRESS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MARCH.
END SUMMARY

1. PCI SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLINGUER'S INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BEGAN A THREE DAY (JULY 24-26) SESSION OF THE PARTY'S
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN MARCH, SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, AND TO A DISCUSSION OF THE PARTY'S ACTIONS IN THE COMING MONTHS AS IT FACES A DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATION AND A FORTHCOMING CONGRESS. CONTRARY TO MANY EXPECTATIONS, BERLINGUER'S SPEECH, WHICH LASTED THREE HOURS, WAS DEVOID OF NEW INITIATIVES AND

SEEMD TO MANY TO BE DEFENSE IN TONE. HIGHLIGHTS OF THOSE POINTS MADE BY BERLINGUER ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. GOVERNMENT. BERLINGUER TERMED AS SIGNIFICANT THE PCI'S ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNING MAJORITY, AN EVENT THAT ENDED THIRTH YEARS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS THE PARTY. HE NOTED THAT THE PCI HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN GAINING ITS OBJECTIVE OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, A FACT THAT HE ATTRIBUTED TO THREE PRINCIPAL FACTORS: A) HEAVY PRESSURE FROM WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, PRIMARILY THE USG IN THE FORM OF ITS JANUARY 12 STATEMENT B) SERIOUS RESISTANCE FROM CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY; AND C) OPPOSITION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE LACK OF POLITICAL COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE SOCIALISTS. BERLINGUER TALKED OF AN EVENTUAL ENTRY INTO AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IN TERMS THAT DID NOT SUGGEST AN ULITMATUM OR A PARTICULAR THE LIMIE. THE PCI SCERETARY SUGGESTED THATTHE PCI WOULD BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROCEED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AGREED TO WHDN IT WAS FORMED. FOR THE MOMENT, BERLINGUER NOTED THAT THE CENTRAL PROBLEM IS QUOTE A CONSOLIDATION OF THE MAJORITY THAT WAS FORMED IN PARLIAMENT LAST MACH 16. END QUOTE

3. RELATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES. POINTING TO THE DEFEAT OF THOSE FORCES IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC)
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WHICH HAD OPPOSED PCI ENTRY INTO A PARLIMANTARY MAJORITY, AND TAKING NOTE OF THE EFFECTIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE DC LEADERSHIP DIRECTED THE PARTY DURING THE MORO KIDNAPPING. BERLINGUER NEVERTHELESS DREW ATTENTION TO CERTAIN NEGATVIE ASPECTS OF RECENT DC BEHAVIOR. HE SPECIFICIALLY CRITICIZED THE CONTINUED EXISTANCE WITHIN DC RANKS OF GROUPS HOSTILE TO THE PRESENT PALRIAMENTARY MAJORITY. ADDITIONALY, HE CITED THE RESISTANCE BY VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE DC TO ANY MEASURES THAT WOUOD LEAD TO EITHER A REAL ECONOMIC RENEWAL OR TO A REDIMENSIONING OF ITS POSITION OF POWER. TURNING TO THE SOCIALISTS (PSI), BERLINGUER WARNED OF SIGNED THAT THE PARTY IS MOVING TO A POSITION OFSYSTEMATIC STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A SPLIT IN THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE COUNTRY. THE PCI SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT THE PSI POSITION IS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO EFFECTUATE A DECLINE OF COMMUNIST STRENGTH AND A QUOTE EMARGINATION END QUOTE OF THE PCI.

4. THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. BERLINGUER REITERATED THE VALIDITY OF THE STRATEGY OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. HE STRESSED THAT THERE REMAIN VALID TODAY QUOTE ALL THE REASONS THAT HAVE LED US TO REJECT THE STRATEGY OF THE SO-CALLEDALTERNATIVE OF THE

LEFT. END QUOTE.

5. THE PARTY BASE. REFERRING TO THE PARTY'S BASE, BERLINGUER
OBSERVED THAT QUOTE MANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WE ENCOUNTER
DERIVE FROM THE FACT THAT NOT ALL OF OUR COMRADES HAVE A FULL
AWARENESS OF THE HIGH LEVEL, WHICH THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE
IN ITALY HAS REACHED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE GRAVE CRISIS OF
THE COUNTRY, BUT ALSO OF THE ADVANCES MADE BY THE WORKERS'

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MOVEMENT AND BY OUR PARTY IN RECENT YEARS. END QUOTE. GIVEN
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BERLINGUER CALLED FOR A RENEWED EFFORT BY
THE PARTY APPARATUS TO EDUCATE THE RANK AND FILE MEMBERSHIP.
AT THE SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT EVEN AS THE PARTY WORKS FOR A
POLICY OF NATIONAL UNITY, IT MUST NOT LOSE ITS PARTICULAR IDENTITY.
IN THIS RESPECT, HE OBSERVED THAT ON SOME OCCASIONS LOCAL
PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE SOUGHT POLITICAL AGREEMENTS REGARDLESS OF
THE COST, WITH THE DC AND THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. WITH
AN EYE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST
HALF OF 1980, BERLINGUER SAID THAT LOCAL POLITICS MUST NOT
BE PRACTICED AS A RITUALISTIC COPY OF NATIONAL POLITICS,
AND HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE POLITICAL COSTS OF A
PARTICULAR AGREEMENT SEEM TO HIGH, IT IS BETTER TO GO
INTO OPPOSITION.

6. THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT. BERLINGUER TOUCHED UPON

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT TWO POINTS IN HIS SPEECH. IN THE INTRODCTION, HE REITERATED THE PARTY'S SHARP CRITICISM OF RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN TO LIMIT THE FREEDOM OF DISSEN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SOVIET UNION. BERLINGUER STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO DENOUNCE REACTIONARY DICTATORSHIP WHICH EXIST IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD AND POLITICAL PERSECUTION THAT IS PRESENT IN THE WESTERN WORLD INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, QUOTE AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG REMINDED US END QUOTE. BERLINGUER ALSO WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTS BEING MADE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES, IN REACTION TO CERTAIN EVENTS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, TO RELAUNCH THE COLD WAR AND TO BLOCK ATTEMPTS TO REACH DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT. POINTING TO THE PCI'S MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TASK, BERLINGUER DESCRIBED IT AS A ACTIN QUOTE TO ADVANCE IN ITALY AND IN WESTERN EUROPE A ROAD OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE DIRECTION OF SOCIALISM THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE PECULARITIES OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE REACHED HIGHER STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES....END QUOTE.

7. FIFTEENTH CONGRESS. INCONNECTION WITH PLANS FOR THE PARTY'S FIFTEENTH CONGRESS, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MARCH, BERLINGUER CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF TWO COMMISSIONS. ONE WOULD PREPARE THESES FOR THE CONGRESS WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT OF A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION TO BEHELD IN DECEMBER. THE OTHER COMMISSION WOULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH DRAWING UP PROPOSAL FOR REFORMING THE STRUCTURE AND THE STATUTES OF THE PARTY.

8. THE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION. JUDGING FROM THE SUMMARIES OF THE VARIOUS SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE CC SESSION WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN L'UNITA, THE DISCUSSION FOLLOWING BERLINGUER'S ADDRESS WAS TAME AND DEVOID OF ANY SHARP CRITICISM EITHER OF THE PRESENT PARTY LINE OR OF THE LEADERSHIP. THE CRITICISM EITHER THAT DID EMERGE FOLLOWED CLOSELY THAT WHICH BERLINGUER HIMSELF HAD RAISED. SEVERAL SPEAKERS TOOK NOTE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE PARTY WITH LUCIANO GRUPPI, DIRECTOR OF THE GRAMSCI INSTITUTE STATING

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THAT THE PCI IS LIVING QUOTE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS SINCE THE LIBERATION END QUOTE. HE ADDED THAT THE DIFFICULTY ARISES IN LARGE MEASURE FROM THE FACT THAT THE PCI IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY QUOTE WITHOUT HOLDING THE LEVERS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO CONFORT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY.

END QUOTE. GRUPPI ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT LONG THE BASE OF THE PARTY THERE IS NOSTALGIA FOR THE OPPOSITION AND A RELUCTANCE AT TIMES TO SHARE THE LINE OF THE PARTY.

9. THE CC CONCULDED WITH BRIEF SUMMARY REMARKS BY BERLINGUER WND WITH TH ADOPTION OF A SHORT RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INDTORUCTORY SPEECH OF BERLINGUER AND THE CERTAIN OF THE TWO COMMISSIONZS TASKED WITH BEGINNING THE PREPARAROTY WORK FOR THE FORTHCOMING PARTY CONGRESS. IN HIS CONCUDING COMMENTS, BERLINGUER CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE LINE HE HAD TAKEN IN HIS OPENING SPEECH WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING ISSUE WITH LOCAL OBSERVERS WHO HAVE TALKED OF QUOTE A SENSE OF BEWILDERMENT END QUOTE ANOBG THE PCI LEADERSHIP.

10. COMMENT. THE JUST CONCLUDED CC SESSION STRIKES US AS UNEXCEPTIONAL IN CONTENT AND DEFENSEIVE IN NATURE. DESPITE THE SETBACKS THAT THE PARTY HAS RECENTLY ENCONUNTERED, THE LEADERHSIP HAS ESSENTIALLY CHOSEN THE COURSE OF PUTTING THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE N THE THE POSITIVE GAINS WHICH HAVE COME THE PCI'S WAY, I.E. PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNING MAJORITY, AND OF REITERATING THE LONG TERM VALIDITY OF THE STRATEGY OF THE HISTOROCI COMPROMISE. AT THE SAME TIME, IN RESPONSE TO THE EVIDENT DISCONTENT AT THE BASE AND TO THE SETBACKS WHICH ARE PART OF THE PRESTN POLITICAL REAPITY, THE LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR THE ADAPTION OF MORE AGGRESSIVE TACTICS AS A MEANS FOR ADVANCING TOWARDS THE PCI'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. AS THE PCI MOVES TOWARDS IS NEXT PARTY CONGRESS, ONE OF ITS CRUCIAL INTERNAL DEBATES WILL BE OVER HOW QTO FINE TUNE A CARROT AND STICK

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POLICY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE NATION'S OTHER POLITICAL FORCES.GARDNER

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